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~~selecting which of said one or more servers will execute said communications services; and redirecting said supplementary service communications request to said selected server.~~

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, Claims 1-12 are pending. Claims 1, 5, and 9 have been amended to more particularly point out Applicant's invention.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Dulman, U.S. Patent No. 5,915,008 ("Dulman") in view of Moharram, U.S. Patent No. 5,825,860 ("Moharram"). Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Dulman or Moharram, either singly or in combination. As described in the Specification, one aspect of the present invention relates to a system and method for intercepting supplementary service redirection requests to a communications network and controlling resource for optimizing resource usage when setting up a call over the network. The network services control system is adapted to retrieve server identification data and to write statistical data in order to optimize network resources. A device/trunk handler is used to interface one or more incoming and outgoing signaling channels to the optimization system. A monitoring and statistics unit monitors the signaling channels when a call is made or is in progress. The server software controls the routing of the supplementary service in the network through one or more selected servers. Therefore, in a particular embodiment of the invention, when a predetermined service command is placed to the communications system, the network services control system can selectively intercept the command and reroute the call through the appropriate available servers, thereby ensuring termination to the correct user, reusing hard to get communications facilities and establishing the most optimal route to the call's final destination.

Thus, the claims recite, for example, "wherein at least one of said plurality of servers comprises an intervening server and is adapted to intercept a

supplementary communications service request to determine whether execution of said supplementary communications service request is carried out by a server other than an original requested server and redirect said supplementary service communications request to said other server" or "intercepting said supplementary communications service requests at an intervening server before execution by a destination server; receiving and decoding supplementary service information for said supplementary communications service being requested; and selecting which of said one or more servers will execute said communications services; and redirecting said supplementary service communications request to said selected server."

In contrast, Dulman appears merely to relate to a standard telecommunications system that offers redirection features. Thus, Dulman provides for generating "transaction data" for services such as call forwarding and the like. Thus, in Dulman, there appears the possibility that the redirection request could fail because of its being routed to a user that cannot implement it. Thus, Dulman appears representative of the problem solved by the present invention.

Moreover, as acknowledged in the Official Action, Dulman does not relate, *inter alia*, to "a server other than the original server." In addition, applicant respectfully submits that neither Dulman nor Moharram relate to, *inter alia*, intercepting supplementary service requests by an intervening server. Instead, Moharram provides a mediation point (MP) that receives requests from service control points (SCP) when those SCPs determine that they need "overload control." The MP does not, however, "intercept" a supplementary service request and, indeed, Moharram appears to have nothing whatsoever to do with supplementary service requests, as generally recited in the claims at issue. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Taylor et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,400,587 ("Taylor") in view of Brivet et al., U.S Patent No. 6,011,842 ("Brivet") and further in view of Dulman and Moharram. Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Taylor or Brivet, Dulman or Moharram, either singly or in combination. As discussed in response to previous Official Actions, Taylor merely relates to rerouting a call from one trunk to another trunk or ACD which then treat

the call normally. Brivet is relied on for teaching supplemental services. Neither reference, however, relates to intercepting supplemental service requests at an intervening server before execution by a destination server, as generally recited in the claims at issue. Indeed, neither Taylor nor Brivet contain a hint that such interception and carrying out of supplementary services by an other-than-original server is even desirable.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that, contrary to the suggestion in the Official Action, the claims are not "so broad that as to read on just about any type of switches, nodes or servers." Indeed, the fact that the instant rejection is based on no less than four (4) references indicates that this is not the case.

As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully requested,

Francis Montgomery
Francis G. Montgomery
Reg. No. 41,202

SIEMENS CORPORATION
Intellectual Property Department
186 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, New Jersey 08830
Telephone: (732) 321-3130

MARKED UP CLAIMS

1. (Thrice Amended) A communications network resource usage control system, comprising:

[one or more] a plurality of servers in the communications network adapted to execute supplementary communications service requests;

a monitoring unit connected to each of said [one or more] plurality of servers to receive and decode supplementary service information for the supplementary communications service being requested; and

a control program responsive to said monitor to select which of said [one or more] plurality of servers will execute said communications services;

wherein at least one of said [one or more] plurality of servers comprises an intervening server and is adapted to intercept a supplementary communications service request to determine whether execution of said supplementary communications service request is carried out by a server other than an original requested server and redirect said supplementary service communications request to said other server.

5. (Thrice Amended) A communications network resource usage optimization system in an interconnected network system, comprising:

[one or more] a plurality of servers in the interconnected network system adapted to execute supplementary communications service requests;

a monitoring unit connected to each of said [one or more] plurality of servers to receive and decode supplementary service information for the supplementary communications services being requested; and

a control program responsive to said monitor decoding supplementary service information adapted to select which of said [one or more] plurality of servers will execute said communications services, said control program further enabling said optimization system only under predetermined conditions;

wherein at least one of said [one or more] plurality of servers comprises an intervening server and is adapted to intercept a supplementary communications service request to determine whether execution of said supplementary

communications service request is carried out by a server other than an original requested server and redirect said supplementary service communications request to said other server.

9. (Thrice Amended) A method for controlling communications network resource usage in a communications network, comprising:

enabling supplementary communications service requests;
intercepting said supplementary communications service requests at an intervening server before execution by a destination server;
receiving and decoding supplementary service information for said supplementary communications service being requested; and
selecting which of said one or more servers will execute said communications services; and
redirecting said supplementary service communications request to said selected server.